Improving efficiency in Cochin Port

199. SHRI P. K. KUNJACHEN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Cochin Port authorities approached the Government with suggestions for improving the efficiency and competitiveness of the said port;

(b) if so, the details of the said suggestions; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The scheme proposed by the port for modernisation, replacement of old assets and improvement of training facilities have been included in the Working Group Report for Port Sector in the VIII Plan. The VIII Plan is yet to be finalised. To improve competitiveness, the port has suggested Government's subsidy for its heavy expenditure on maintenance dredging and also moratorium on Government loans extended to the port. No decisions have been taken as yet on these policy issues.

Sharp fall in cargo traffic in Cochin Port

200. SHRI P. K. KUNJACHEN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cargo traffic in Cochin Port registered a sharp fall recently; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER FOR SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) and (b) The total traffic handled at Cochin Port during 1989-90 declined to 71.11 lakh tonnes from 78.24 lakh tonnes in 1988-89 mainly due to decline in POL traffic which declined to 55.60 lakh tonnes in 1989-90 from 62.68 lakh tonnes in the preceding year. There was a shut down of Cochin Refineries during 1989-90 for 45 days for periodic maintenance.

Map of India in a Urdu text book in Andhra Pradesh

201. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a text book meant for Urdu medium fourth standard printed by the Government of Andhra Pradesh showed a map of India without Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) whether any inquiry has been made in the matter; and

(c) if so, the action taken by Government against those responsible therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) Information is being collected from the Government of Andhra Pradesh and will be laid on the Table of the House on its receipt.

Invitation of individual appeals by Amnesty International

202. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been lrawn to the Amnesty International's invitation for appeals from individuals across the world to protest to Government of India against possible extrajudicial executions' in the troubled areas of Jammu and Kashmir State; If so, the response so far received in this regard; and

(b) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) and (b) The appeal said to have been

made by Amnesty International has not led to any significant number of individuals writing to the Government. The Government's policy is not respond to such communications which contain allegations unsupported by factual evidence.

Filling up vacant Posts in Kashmir

203 SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has stated that unemployed youth of the Kashmir Valley will be recruited to fill the posts that have fallen vacant due to the continued absence of a large number of Government employees in the Valley, as a result of deteriorated law and order situation there;

(b) what are the norms for recruitment and whether any one of the absentees would be suspended;

(c) whether an intensive screening would be done by appropriate authorities of each candidate;

(d) whether the present absence of employees in due to the tense law and order situation in the Valley; and whether it would be proper to deem their posts as vacant and treat them as ex-employees; and

(e) if so, the policy of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (e) Many migrant employees are reluctant to return to the Valley, with a view to enabling the Govt. establishments to function effectively, some vacancies caused by such migrant employees are being filled through recruitment of local Kashmiri youths. The migrant employees are being temporarily adjusted elsewhere Their interests, and when as they return, will not be affected adversely.

Statement of ULFA

204. SHRI G. G. SWELL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the press statement issued by the United Liberation Front of Assam that it is preparing for an armed conflict with the Indian State, and that it has a link with the extremists in Punjab;

(b) whether the AGP Government and Party launched a 12 hour strike on June 27, 1990 to protest against the Central Government's alleged indifference to Assam's demands; and

(c) whether Government have evolved any strategy to deal with problems in Assam and the North-east?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A bandh was observed in Assam on June 27, 1990 on the call of the AGP to protest against the alleged apathetic attitude of the Centre towards the State.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Deployment of NSG

205. SHRI M. M. JACOB:
SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that NSG is to be deployed selectively in sensitive areas; and

(b) if so, whether Government would avoid deployment of army for internal security duties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) NSG is a specially trained Force and is deployed only for specific task requiring such specialised training. Deployment of other forces is done according to need.